
Community, Economic, & Human Development Committee
July 7, 2005

Action Minutes

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC, & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. AUDIO CASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Deborah Robertson, at 10:33 a.m. There was a quorum.

Members Present

Arguello, Daniel
Bowlen, Paul (**Vice Chair**)
Campbell, Todd
Coerper, Gil
Davert, Doug
Jasper, Timothy
Krause, Mary Ann
Lantz, Paula
McCallon, Larry
McCullough, Kathryn
Norby, Chris
Poe, Marilyn
Richardson, Laura
Robertson, Deborah (**Chair**)
Ten, Mike

SGVCOG
City of Cerritos
City of Burbank
City of Huntington Beach
City of Tustin
City of Apple Valley
City of Santa Paula
City of Pomona
City of Highland
OCCOG
Orange County
City of Los Alamitos
City of Long Beach
City of Rialto
SGVCOG

Members Not Present

Dispenza, Mike
Foat, Ginny
Hofmeyer, Daryl
Kirby, Dan
Loveridge, Ronald
Lutz, Mary Ann
McSweeney, Susan
Nowatka, Paul
Perry, Jan
Reyes, Ed
White, Charles
Yousefian, Bob

City of Palmdale
CVAG Subregion
City of Paramount
SGVCOG
City of Riverside
City of Monrovia
City of Westlake
City of Torrance
City of Los Angeles
City of Los Angeles
WRCOG Subregion
City of Glendale

New Member(s)

Jon A. Edney

City of El Centro/IVAG

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Debra Robertson called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. Chair Robertson welcomed new member Jon Edney of El Centro/IVAG to the Committee.

2.0 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Chair Robertson was nominated for chair by Councilmember McCallon and seconded by Councilmember Richardson, Councilmember Marilyn Poe was nominated by Councilmember Coerper and seconded by Councilmember Krause; Councilmember Poe declined the nomination. It was then moved by Councilmember Arguello and seconded by Councilmember Ten to re-elect Deborah Robertson for Chair and was unanimously approved without objection. Councilmember Paul Bowlen was nominated for Vice Chair by Chair Robertson and seconded by Councilmember Richardson. There were no other nominees for Vice Chair, therefore, Councilmember Bowlen was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Butala, SCAG Staff, presented the Committee with an update of the compass Website noting the forms for the Suite of Services Requests and Demonstration Project Proposals are available on-line.

4.0 REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

The following consent calendar items were approved without objection.

5.1 Approval Item

5.1.1 Minutes of the May 5, 2005 meeting

5.2 Receive and File

5.2.1 State and Federal Legislative Matrix

5.2.2 SCAG Future Calendar

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 2% Strategy Implementation Through California Environmental Quality Act Streamlining

Jacob Lieb, SCAG Staff, presented suggestions for streamlining the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the purpose of facilitating key, strategic

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development regionwide. Pending approval from the Regional Council, SCAG staff would assist in the development of and support CEQA streamlining legislation based on the following principles:

CEQA streamlining should:

- Ease the development of housing in appropriate, strategic locations (e.g. urban infill and transit oriented areas).
- Pursue environmental outcomes that are preferable to current conditions or “no-plan” future scenarios.
- Ensure that CEQA is used as intended rather than abused in order to stop/delay good projects
- Promote regional planning.
- Address a number of environmental impacts at the regional, rather than project, scale.

The Chair thanked Jacob for the presentation and called for committee discussion. Mike Ten feels CEQA currently allows local leadership to define how much a project is focused or streamlined. A regional view is too broad for local application. Prefers the burden be on local leadership to streamline for local applications and that CEQA not be streamlined at the broad, statewide level being discussed.

Jacob Lieb pointed out all provisions of CEQA streamlining would be voluntary for enactment at local level.

Daniel Arguello stated SGVCOG support and participates in the 2% Implementation and Compass programs but the COG does not support CEQA streamlining as described at this time. They are concerned not all cities in the region are aware of and understand 2% Strategy etc. and the impacts of such streamlining stated his belief CEQA reform is in contrast to the laws of local control.

In answer to a question, Mark Pisano, Executive Director of SCAG, responded 4 other cogs in the State are doing “blueprint work”. Mr. Pisano went on to say the focus is to take the existing CEQA housing exemption to develop a further streamlined process that strengthens, environmental mitigations while expediting project approvals. He gave background on the State legislature’s, interest in the subject, the current housing crisis and the costs of EIR preparation statewide. He noted the Governor had included funds for the first time ever in the budget for this Statewide planning “blueprint” work

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Paula Lantz expressed concern that local government would lose prerogative and control over city specific impacts and that the pre-decisions in the proposal would not work. She states she did not support the concepts of the reform work and was opposed to anything that infringed on zoning and local guideline controls.

Todd Campbell stated his extreme concerns about the vagueness of the staff report and proposal before Committee. He does not think simply referencing the cost of EIRs is enough when you do not know the value of projects those EIRs reviewed. He stated he was not convinced yet that regional analysis or areawide was preferable to current CEQA process and the local benefits.

Jacob Lieb reemphasized the participatory nature of Compass and the CEQA reform proposals. After the Committee members and staff gave a brief background on the Compass work, Chair Robertson asked for more discussion on the CEQA proposal.

Councilmember Gil Coerper complimented staff on the work to date and made a motion to continue item to next meeting. Seconded by Councilmember McCullough.

Member Krause then stated she did not see any threat to local control in the CEQA reform package. She identified significant air quality benefits and water quality benefits in a proposal such as this.

Member McCullough expressed concern if SCAG does not show leadership in this CEQA reform area that the State will step in and then it will become a loss of local control. She then asked future discussions on this topic include clarification on how the CEQA reform proposal helps to keep equity in the use of land and other limited resources.

(Supervisor Chris Norby joined the Committee meeting at 11:20 a.m.)

After further discussion among the members, the Chair called for a vote on the motion 8 ayes, 8 noes.

Counsel Colin Lennard stated the motion does not pass.

New motion by Laura Richardson seconded by Doug Davert to accept staff recommendation as stated in the staff memo. Chair called for discussion on the new motion. Member Edney stated support of motion and noted the importance of moving forward and gave examples from his jurisdiction why it was important.

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Member Richardson noted important of timing to work with Legislature this year and further noted future opportunities make changes.

Daniel Arguello restated his opposition to motion and felt urgency was inappropriate on such a new and important item. Lynn Harris noted elements of the proposal had been ongoing and reported in CEHD and Regional Councils meetings.

Laura Richardson called for the question by restating motion: It was moved by Councilmember Richardson, and seconded by Councilmember Davert and passed to proceed to implement recommendation in the Compass program as described in the staff report with the following clarifications added: (1) the program is to be implemented voluntarily at the local level; (2) the regional analysis combined with the streamlined in-fill EIR will form the functional equivalent of an EIR, and (3) program is limited geographically to specific locations identified in the regional growth plan, known as the 2% areas. The motion passed with a vote of 11 ayes, 5 noes.

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 Status Report re: 2007 RTP Growth Forecast: Recent Trends in Population and Employment and Implementation for 2007 RTP Growth Forecast

Frank Wen, SCAG Staff, reported that consistent with the timelines and tasks specified in the forecasting process flow chart, Community Development and Forecasting staff, with tremendous help from subregions, cities, and subregion coordinators, are undertaking the following three tasks concurrently:

- Conduct survey of local jurisdictions regarding recent changes in general plan and developments that could affect the long-term growth patterns envisioned in the 2005 RTP/Growth Vision policy forecasts.
- Review 2003 base year small area distribution of employment, population, and household.
- Review recent trends in population, employment and household growth and assess their implications for 2007 RTP growth forecast.

The Chair thanked Mr. Wen for the report.

7.2 Briefing on the California Economic Strategy Panel

Bruce DeVine, SCAG Staff, gave the Committee a briefing on the Panel's work plan and priorities for 2005-2006. The Panel is mandated by AB 1532 which calls for a report at the end of this calendar year to the Legislature. The purpose of the Panel is to advise the Governor and the Legislature on long-term economic

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strategy. Mr. DeVine stated that the Panel approached their work in two ways. One was to focus on issues and policies at the regional level; and secondly, to carryout their work plan by breaking into working groups each dealing with a certain topic such as accountability for state economic development investments.

7.3 Ninth Annual Regional Economic Forecast Conference

Bruce DeVine also reported that one of the changes to planning the conference is when it will be held, which in this case, will be in January 2006. It was moved because some of the issues that may be raised by the State of the Region, to be published in early January, could have some direct impact on the Economic Conference to be held the third week of January. Also, staff is looking into other methods for financing the conference, and different venues for the meeting to be held, and finally staff will be looking for someone from the Regional Council to work on the Economic Conference planning group. It was suggested that staff keep in mind to use a venue that is accessible by transit.

7.4 Pre-planning for 2006 6th Annual Regional Housing Summit

Joe Carreras, SCAG Staff, first announced that there is a new workforce incentive being launched by the State in the amount of \$23,000,000. This funding is for communities based on their performance in building housing and developing new housing opportunities. The booklet staff presented at the last housing summit would help cities to assess whether they are eligible for these resources. There are also bonus resources for communities who have done well in meeting their lower income affordable housing needs as defined in the Regional Housing Needs Plan. The deadline for submission is March 2006.

Eligibility is determined by:

- A complying housing element
- Annual progress report to State HCD
- Building permits issued for affordable housing in 2005
- Land use approval for qualifying units after January 1, 2004

Mr. Carreras stated that Councilmember Paul Nowatka has kindly reserved the Toyota meeting room in Torrance if the Steering Committee wants to hold the Housing Summit in Torrance for 2006.

Chair Robertson suggested that this item should be put on the next agenda, with a call for volunteers to form a steering committee for the 2006 Summit.

7.5 Regional Comprehensive Plan Update

This item was moved to the September 1st meeting.

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8.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Robertson reported on her participation in lobbying in Sacramento to speak on CEQA, housing element reform, Prop 42, and a number of bills such as Go California. Chair Robertson felt the trip was very beneficial and well received. Also, she received a strong commitment from both houses that they would support a resolution to give to the California delegation in support of Reauthorization TEA and more importantly they are unified in bringing back dollars to California.

9.0 STAFF REPORT

Lynn Harris, SCAG Staff, reported that State HCD has approved SCAG's request for the schedule for the RHNA to be tied with the 2007 Growth Forecast/RTP. The letter of approval is posted on the SCAG website. The Chair requested this item be agendaized for September because of the need for detailed reporting.

10.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair reminded staff the Committee is awaiting a report on the Regional Comprehensive Plan Chapters.


11.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Arguello and seconded by Councilmember McCullough to adjourn at 12:24 p.m. There will not be a meeting in August. The next CEHD meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 1, 2005 at the SCAG office.

Action Minutes Approved by:


**Lynn Harris, Manager
Community Development**